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HOUSE RESOLUTION 75  
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION relative to the transportation of hazardous materials and compliance with emergency response guidelines.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly must labor diligently to ensure the health and welfare of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Management officials of the Illinois Central Railroad in Memphis, Tennessee have once again demonstrated either a lack of knowledge and understanding of the hazardous materials spill procedures outlined in the *Emergency Response* Guidebook published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration, or an unwillingness to comply with such standards; and

WHEREAS, On April 2, 1997, a tank car known to be leaking hydrogen fluoride was placed on an Illinois Central Railroad yard track which is adjacent to a residential area; and

WHEREAS, Fire Department officials on the scene immediately evacuated the area residents, removing more than one hundred (100) people from their homes; and

WHEREAS, this evacuation was conducted in compliance with procedures outlined in the *Emergency Response Guidebook* published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration; and

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WHEREAS, This guideline states in part "Keep unnecessary people away, isolate hazard area and deny entry." Several employees of Illinois Central Railroad were working in this immediate area, and were required by management to remain in the area needlessly; and

WHEREAS, this latest instance of non-compliance is yet another incident in a pattern of total disregard for the proper handling of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Central has repeatedly ignored the prescribed methods for safeguarding the lives of employees and the general population when hazardous materials are accidentally released into the environment; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this General Assembly that such company has placed the expediency of operations above the safety of their employees and the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby most fervently urge those companies transporting hazardous materials to comply with guidelines outlined in the *Emergency Response Guidebook* published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the general manager of Illinois Central in Memphis with this final clause omitted from such copy.